



Title: Welcome Letter

Author: Tsediso Michael Makoelle

Page numbers: 1

Citation: Makoelle, T. M. (2017). Welcome letter. *NUGSE Research in Education*, 2(1), 1. Retrieved from nugserie.nu.edu.kz

Full issue available from nugserie.nu.edu.kz

NUGSE Research in Education is a free, open source publication.

All work in this issue carries the Creative Commons Copyright license BY-NC-SA 4.0

Any future publication or reference to this work should include attribution to this publication.

In this welcome letter, I hope to address the following questions:

- How does the journal further NU's and NUGSE's mission?
- How does participation in the journal benefit our school and the wider academic community?
- How does this issue reflect the diverse academic contributions of our programs (PhD, MA, MSc) while still fitting under one journal?

Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education aims to be one of the education schools ranked in the top 3% in the world. Thus, we have decided to engage our students in conducting research that is ethical and of high quality and meeting international standards and repute. In achieving this goal among others, we have established a student journal. *NUGSE Research in Education* presents a critical platform for research development and dissemination within the NU research community and wider academic community of Kazakhstan.

The NU mission is geared towards research excellence; therefore, the student journal is one of the different ways by which the Graduate School of Education contributes significantly to the attainment and sustenance of this goal. The journal benefits the school in that our students can participate in scholarly activities of critical reading, writing and producing scholarly papers that uniquely contribute to the research output of our school. The journal provides a platform for students to engage in robust academic and intellectual discussions which are important for their scholarly skills, critical thinking and problem solving. They are also positioned to make significant contributions to the scientific body of knowledge to a wider academic community.

The journal, through carefully selected and blind peer reviewed articles, focuses on the education reforms in Kazakhstan. Various reform processes in curriculum, school leadership, assessment, inclusive education, and governance in higher education, which together form the core of the research priorities of Kazakhstani education context, are uniquely addressed with findings of studies making an enormous contribution of knowledge to policy makers' researchers and practitioners.

As an integral part of our Masters and PhD programs the journal forms a convergence zone for inter and intra-program cooperation by our students, leading to the improvement of their professional relationships and collaborations. This inter and intra-program collaboration enhanced by the journal creates an integrated intellectual and scholarly community bound by discursively produced research culture.

The peer reviewed articles in this issue show the diverse research interests of the NUGSE student and alumni body. In our featured article, Nurgul Terlikbayeva examines the experiences of returnee, or *oralman*, children as they integrate into Kazakhstani schools. Nazira Ayazbayeva presents a literature review of current policies and understandings of language-in-education. Olessya Akimenko shares her second article with our journal, in which she interviews two groups of students and private tutors of English in urban settings. Samal Kadyrova provides an extensive investigation into teacher mentoring in Kazakhstani schools. Finally, Peter Shon discusses the role that Abay, the Kazakh philosopher, can play in Kazakhstan's modern education context. The editorials in the second half of the issue also share important reflections and advice about the publication process. We sincerely hope that you enjoy the work within these pages.

Dr. Tsediso Michael Makoelle
NUGSE General Director of Research